THE ETERNALS™

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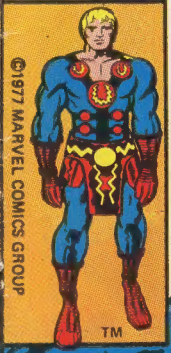
THE DIABOLICAL DROMEDAN BATTLES THE ETERNALS™



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HE HAS THE POWER TO MOLD THE WORLD TO HIS WILL! THE DEADLIEST CHALLENGE YET FOR IKARUS AND THE MYSTIC MIGHT OF: SERSI THE TERRIBLE!

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Strange events have exposed a startling fact, kept alive through the centuries only by myth and superstition—man is not alone on the evolutionary chain!! He has shared the planet with two species unknown to him! Now, in a sudden burst of violence, the Deviants have risen from their domain beneath the sea to challenge all humanity!! But mankind has unexpected allies—

Stan Lee PRESENTS: THE ETERNALS!™

EDITED, WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY JACK KIRBY • LETTERED & INKED BY MICHAEL ROYER • COLORED BY GLYNIS WEIN • UMPIRED BY ARCHIE GOODWIN

IN AN ANCIENT CRYPT UNEARTHED BY EXPLODING GAS LINES BENEATH A MODERN CITY'S STREETS, THE MIGHTY POWERS OF THE FOREMOST ETERNALS ARE UNDER HAMMERING ATTACK! THEIR OPPONENT ONCE MADE THE WORLD TREMBLE! IF HE WINS, HE MAY DO IT AGAIN --UNLESS THE WRATH OF A FEMALE CAN STOP HIM! READ...

SERSI the TERRIBLE!

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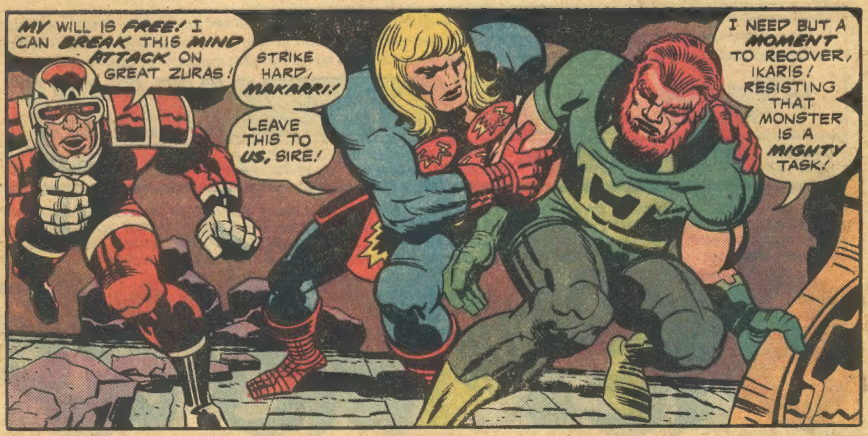
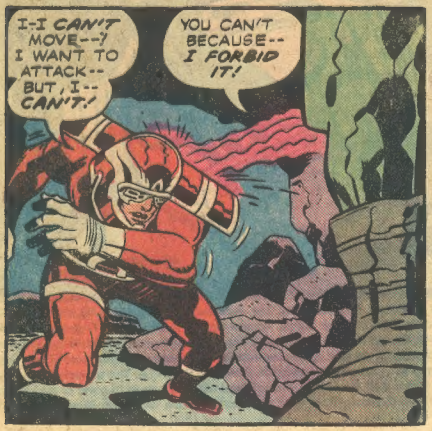
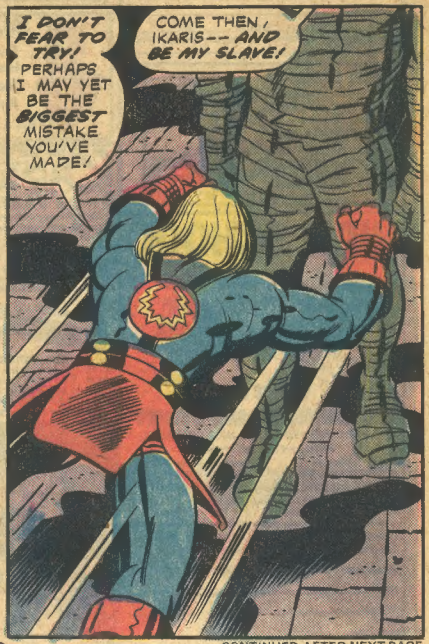

MY WILL IS FREE! I CAN BREAK THIS MIND ATTACK ON GREAT ZURAS!
STRIKE HARD, MAKARRI!
LEAVE THIS TO US, SIRE!
I NEED BUT A MOMENT TO RECOVER, IKARIS! RESISTING THAT MONSTER IS A MIGHTY TASK!

NEED YOUR LEADER'S WORDS, FOOLISH ONE! TO ATTACK ME IS FUTILE!
YOU'LL BE MERE PULP BEFORE YOU CAN SEIZE MY MIND!

THE WILL OF DROMEDAN IS SWIFT AS IT IS POWERFUL! MY MENTAL COMMAND IS ALREADY IN YOUR BRAIN--! SQUEEZING IT--UNTIL IT CONTAINS ONLY ONE THOUGHT --MINE--!!!


I-I CAN'T MOVE--! I WANT TO ATTACK-- BUT, I-- CAN'T!
YOU CAN'T BECAUSE-- I FORBID IT!

MAKARRI WEAKENS AND SINKS TO THE GROUND...
I'LL RESIST, DROMEDAN! I'LL FIGHT YOUR CONTROL TO THE LAST!
YOU'RE NOTHING MORE THAN A PUPPET NOW, YOU FOOL!



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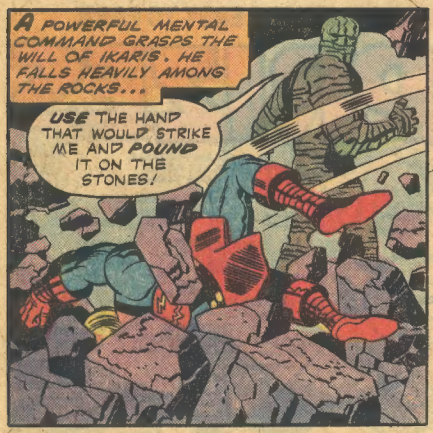
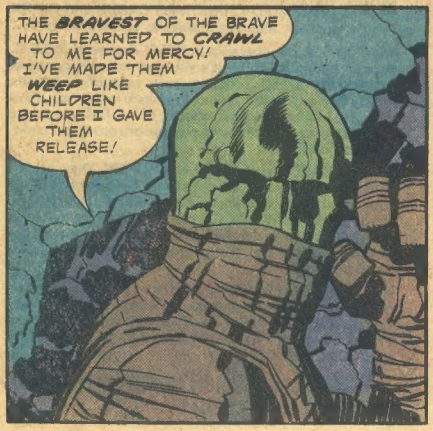

A POWERFUL MENTAL COMMAND GRASPS THE WILL OF IKARIS. HE FALLS HEAVILY AMONG THE ROCKS...
USE THE HAND THAT WOULD STRIKE ME AND POUND IT ON THE STONES!

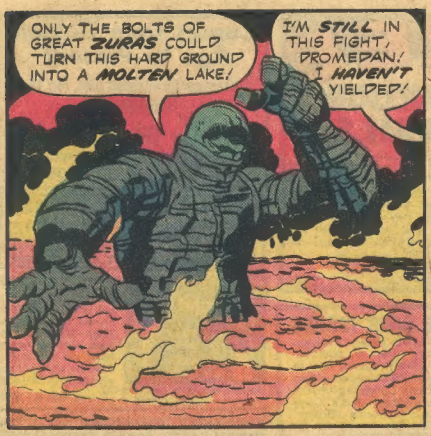
ALTHOUGH IKARIS ATTEMPTS TO RESIST THE ORDER, HIS MIND IS ALMOST SHATTERED BY THE STRENGTH OF IT...
DO IT! DO AS I SAY!

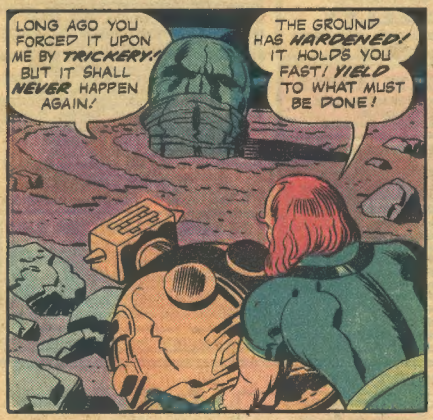
KRAK!

BLAST YOU, DROMEDAN! I CURSE YOUR NAME FOR ALL TIME!
THE PAIN WILL MAKE YOU KINDER, IKARIS!
KEEP POUNDING !!
BAM


THE BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE HAVE LEARNED TO CRAWL TO ME FOR MERCY! I'VE MADE THEM WEEP LIKE CHILDREN BEFORE I GAVE THEM RELEASE!

SUDDENLY...
CRASH!!





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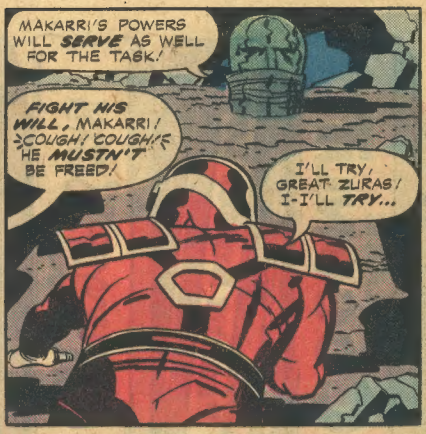
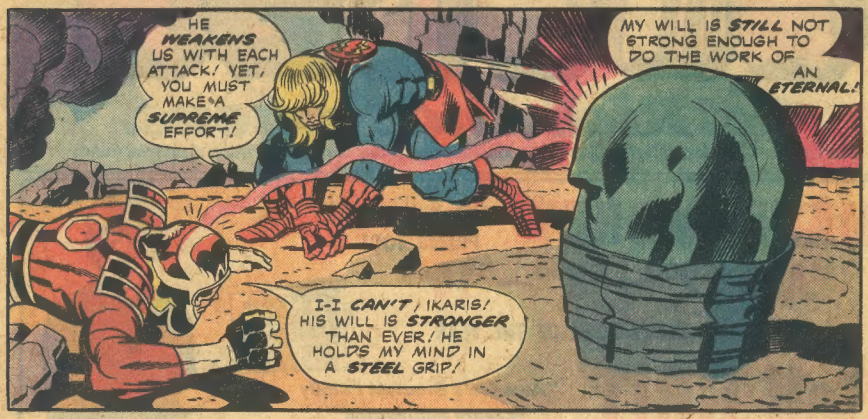
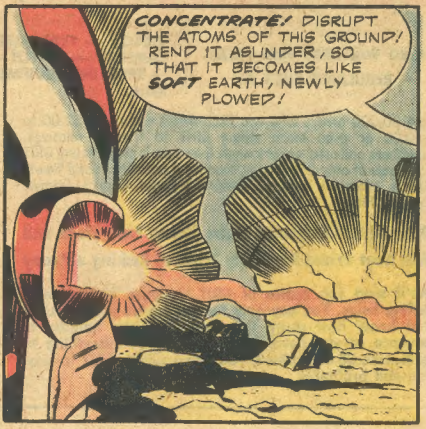
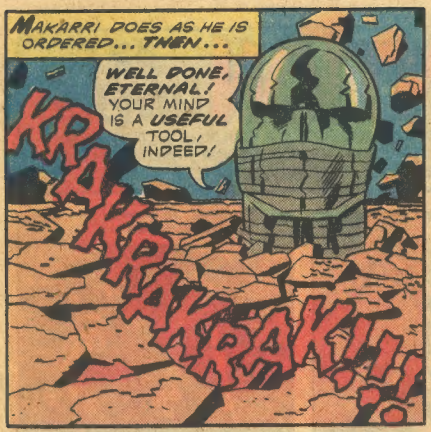
THEN SHROUD YOURSELF IN DARK VAPORS AND BREATHE DEEPLY, ZURAS!
THOUGH YOU CANNOT DIE, YOU CAN SUFFER MIGHTILY!

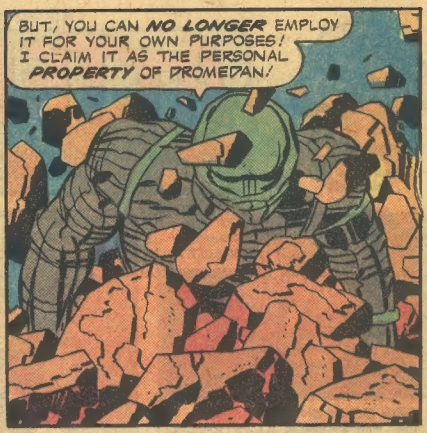

MAKARRI'S POWERS WILL SERVE AS WELL FOR THE TASK!
FIGHT HIS WILL, MAKARRI! COUGH! COUGH! HE MUSTN'T BE FREED!
I'LL TRY, GREAT ZURAS! I-I'LL TRY...

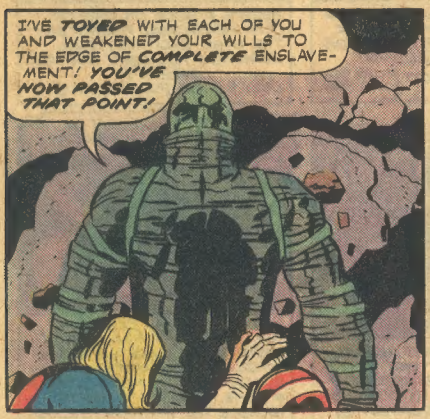

HE WEAKENS US WITH EACH ATTACK! YET, YOU MUST MAKE A SUPREME EFFORT!
MY WILL IS STILL NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO DO THE WORK OF AN ETERNAL!
I-I CAN'T, IKARIS! HIS WILL IS STRONGER THAN EVER! HE HOLDS MY MIND IN A STEEL GRIP!

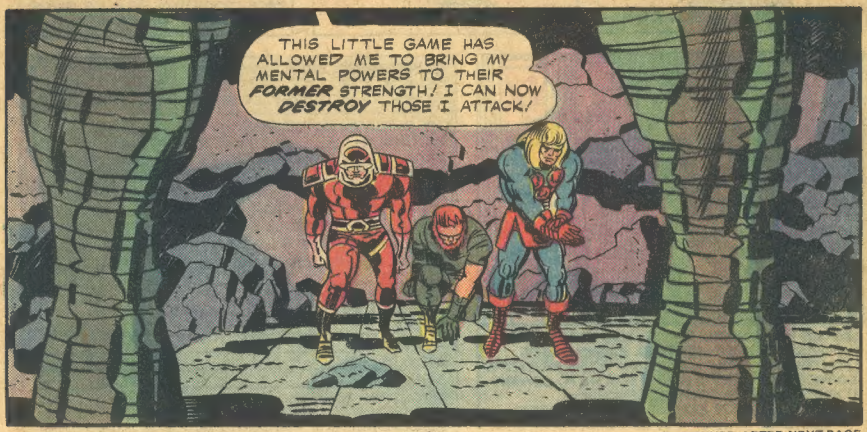
BUT, IT CAN CONTROL YOU! IT CAN FORCE YOU TO A TASK SO EASILY ACCOMPLISHED BY YOUR KIND!
NO, MAKARRI! NO!


CONCENTRATE! DISRUPT THE ATOMS OF THIS GROUND! REND IT ASUNDER, SO THAT IT BECOMES LIKE SOFT EARTH, NEWLY PLOWED!









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AT THAT MOMENT, GREAT REPTILIAN COILS DROP UPON DROMEDAN FROM ABOVE...

BY EVERY CRAWLING DEMON!

SSSS!

YOU'VE GOT ANOTHER GUEST, BRAGGART! UNWRAPPING MY GIFT SHOULD KEEP YOU QUITE BUSY!

I'LL MAKE SHORT WORK OF IT! NEVER FEAR!

IF MY PRESENT DISPLEASES YOU, IT CAN BE QUICKLY CHANGED TO A MORE INTERESTING FORM!

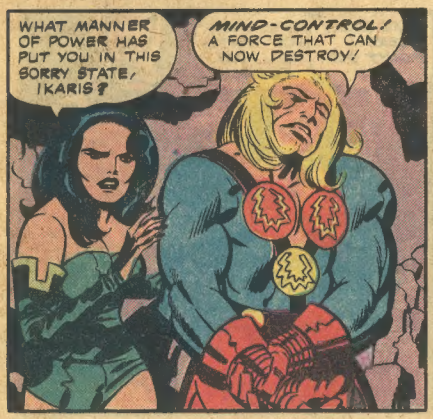
RRRRR!!

THE ARRIVAL OF SERSI AT ANY SCENE IS FOREVER ACCOMPANIED BY SURPRISES...

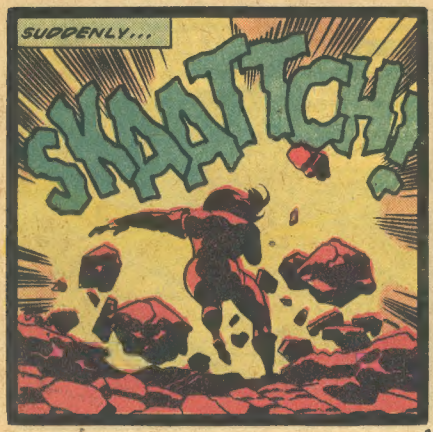
WHAT'S HAPPENED HERE, IKARIS!? WHO IS THIS CREATURE OF BLUSTER AND THREATS!?

LEAVE, SERSI--! LEAVE QUICKLY!

DO AS IKARIS COMMANDS! WE FACE A MAD THING FROM THE DIM PAST --A THING OF INVINCIBLE POWER!
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! THERE IS NO EQUAL TO THE WISDOM AND STRENGTH OF ZURAS AND THE ETERNALS !!
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE FOLLOWED US INTO THE CRYPT, SERS! FLEE WHILE YOU CAN!
FOOLISH FEMALE! YOU TARRY TOO LONG!


WHAT MANNER OF POWER HAS PUT YOU IN THIS SORRY STATE, IKARIS?
MIND-CONTROL! A FORCE THAT CAN NOW DESTROY!

DROMEDAN'S MIND-WAVES HAVE REACHED KILLING STRENGTH --WHILE OUR POWERS HAVE BEEN SORELY DIMINISHED!
INCREDIBLE!

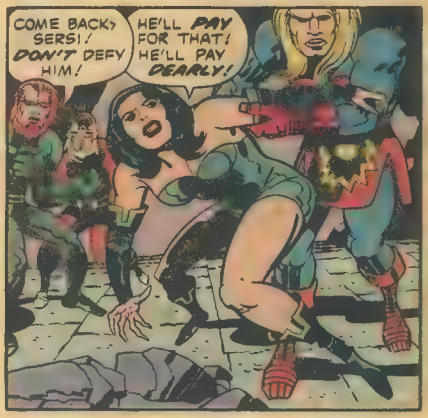

SUDDENLY...
SKRAATCH!

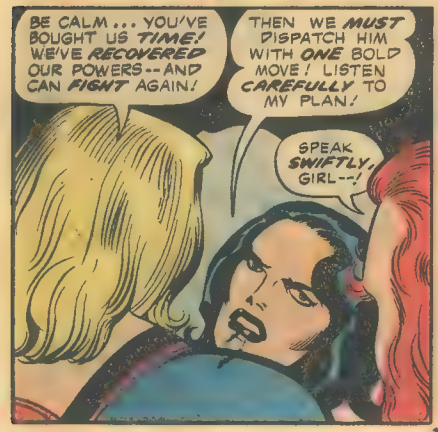
MY GIFT LIES IN ASHES! YOU DIDN'T LIKE IT AFTER ALL!
'TWAS A POOR TEST FOR A MENTAL ASSAULT AT MAXIMUM POWER!

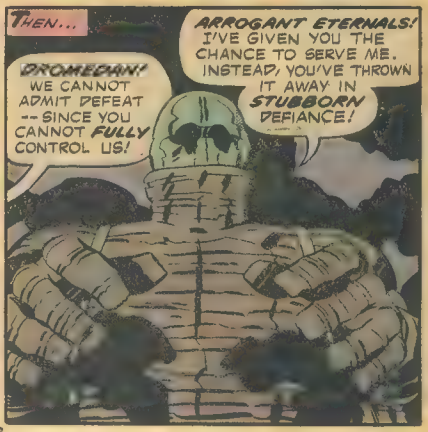
AT MAXIMUM POWER, I CAN NOT ONLY FASHION ANASTROSITIES FROM MOLECULES, BUT MAKE A BOAR FROM A DOOR SUCH AS YOU!
YOU'VE YET TO LEARN WHAT I TAUGHT TO YOUR COMPANIONS!

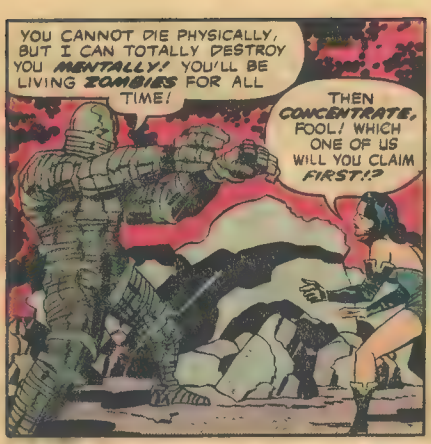
FORGET YOUR BOAST! YOU'RE INCAPABLE OF CARRYING IT OUT! I'VE ERASED IT FROM YOUR MIND! ANY FURTHER THREATS WILL BE DEALT WITH HARSHLY!
YOU--YOU HORROR!

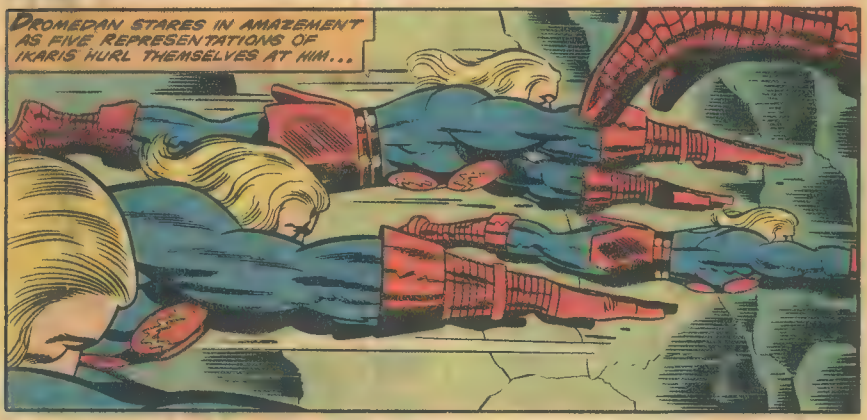
THIS MENTAL PROBE MAY BE MORE CONVINCING!
STOP IT! STOP IT!!

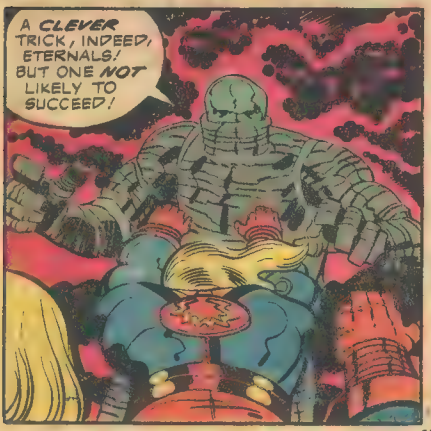

COME BACK, SERSI! DON'T DEFY HIM!
HE'LL PAY FOR THAT! HE'LL PAY DEARLY!

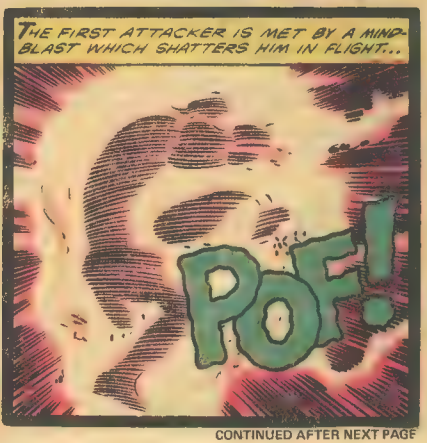

BE CALM... YOU'VE BOUGHT US TIME! WE'VE RECOVERED OUR POWERS--AND CAN FIGHT AGAIN!
THEN WE MUST DISPATCH HIM WITH ONE BOLD MOVE! LISTEN CAREFULLY TO MY PLAN!
SPEAK SWIFTLY, GIRL--!


THEN...
DROMEDAN! WE CANNOT ADMIT DEFEAT --SINCE YOU CANNOT FULLY CONTROL US!
ARROGANT ETERNALS! I'VE GIVEN YOU THE CHANCE TO SERVE ME. INSTEAD, YOU'VE THROWN IT AWAY IN STUBBORN DEFIANCE!









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THE OTHERS CLASH WITH DROMEDAN IN A WILD MELEE OF STAGGERING FEROCITY! THE GREAT **MIND-MUTANT** IS FORCED TO GIVE GROUND BENEATH THE ASSAULT...

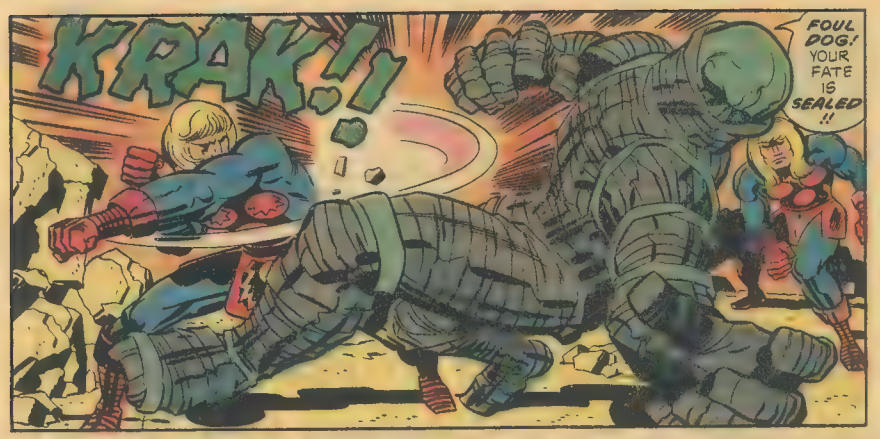
POW!

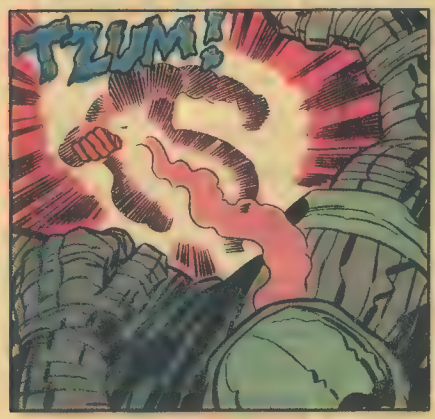
WHAM!

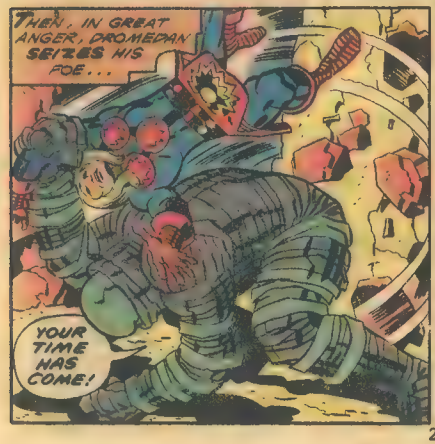
DZZZZZ

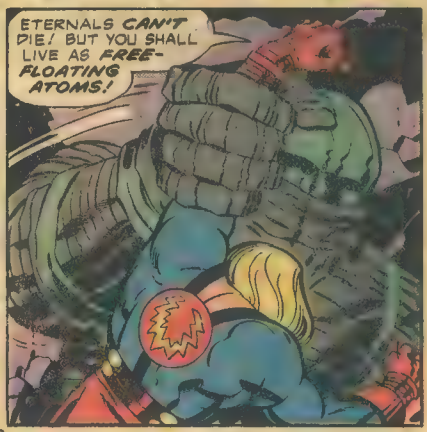
THIS WOLF-PACK IS NO MATCH FOR ME! MY POWER HAS REACHED ITS **PEAK!** I CAN DESTROY AN **ARMY!**

KABAAM









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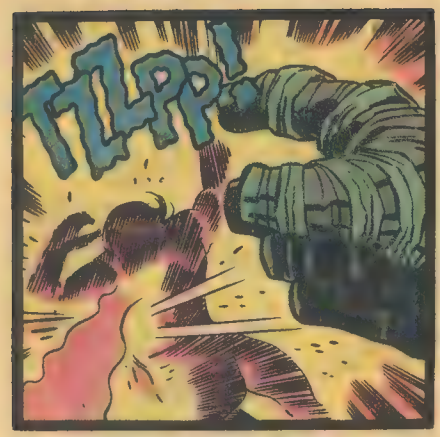
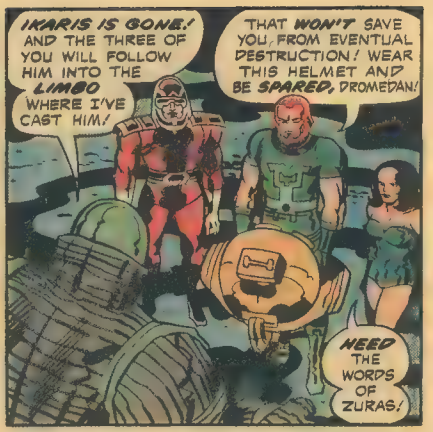
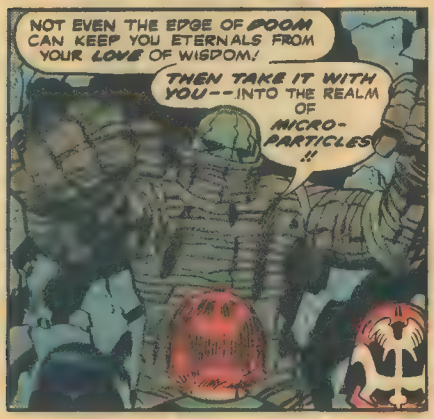
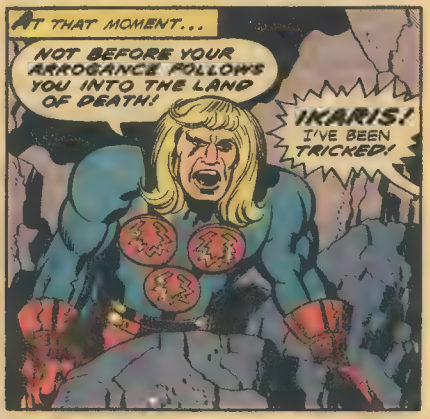
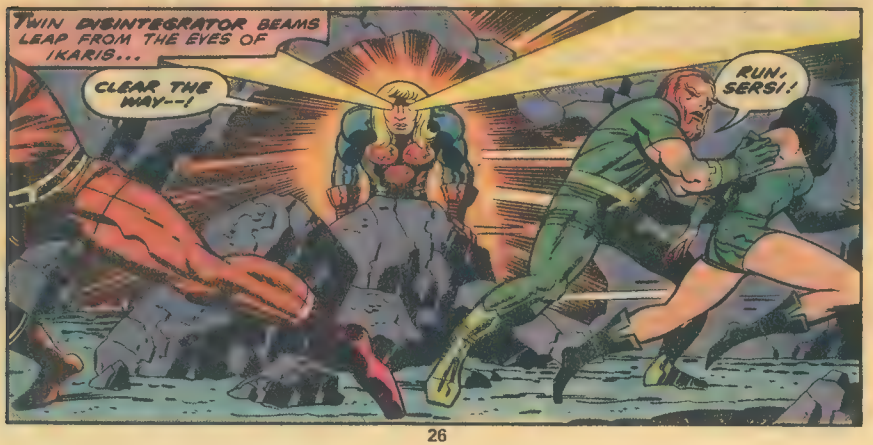
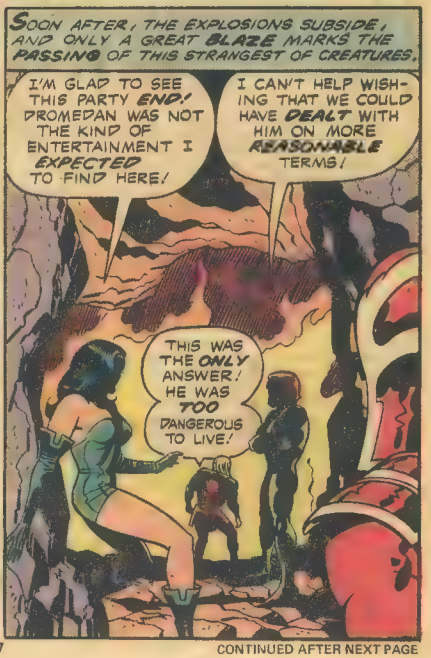

TILPP!


IKARIS IS GONE! AND THE THREE OF YOU WILL FOLLOW HIM INTO THE LIMBO WHERE I'VE CAST HIM!
THAT WON'T SAVE YOU, FROM EVENTUAL DESTRUCTION! WEAR THIS HELMET AND BE SPARED, DROMEDAN!
NEED THE WORDS OF ZURAS!


NOT EVEN THE EDGE OF DOOM CAN KEEP YOU ETERNALS FROM YOUR LOVE OF WISDOM!
THEN TAKE IT WITH YOU--INTO THE REALM OF MICRO-PARTICLES!!


AT THAT MOMENT...
NOT BEFORE YOUR ARROGANCE FOLLOWS YOU INTO THE LAND OF DEATH!
IKARIS! I'VE BEEN TRICKED!


TWIN DISINTEGRATOR BEAMS LEAP FROM THE EYES OF IKARIS...
CLEAR THE WAY--!
RUN, SERSI!



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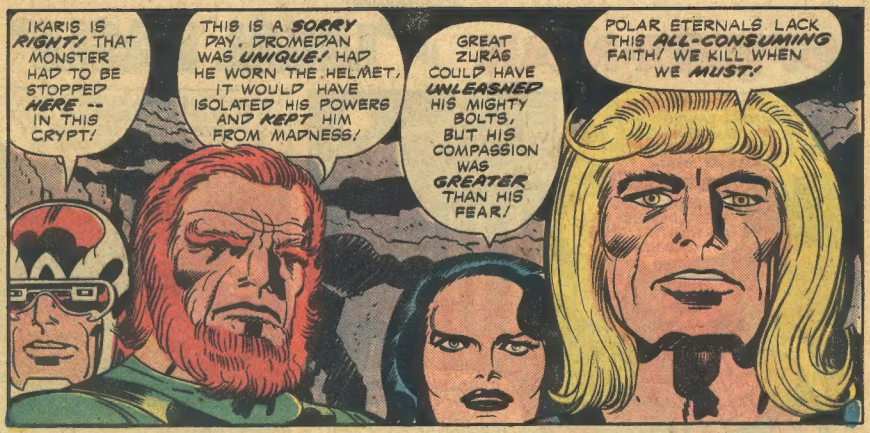
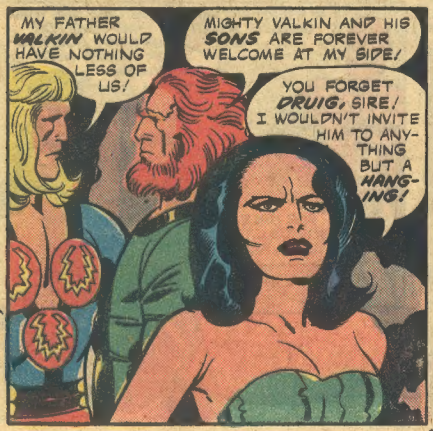

IKARIS IS RIGHT! THAT MONSTER HAD TO BE STOPPED HERE -- IN THIS CRYPT!
THIS IS A SORRY DAY. DROMEDAN WAS UNIQUE! HAD HE WORN THE HELMET, IT WOULD HAVE ISOLATED HIS POWERS AND KEPT HIM FROM MADNESS!
GREAT ZURAS COULD HAVE UNLEASHED HIS MIGHTY BOLTS, BUT HIS COMPASSION WAS GREATER THAN HIS FEAR!
POLAR ETERNALS LACK THIS ALL-CONSUMING FAITH! WE KILL WHEN WE MUST!

I SAY THAT WITH DUE RESPECT FOR THE WISDOM OF GREAT ZURAS!
DON'T APOLOGIZE FOR YOUR FROZEN-FACED FAMILY OF TOUGHS! THEY DID SPAWN YOU, IKARIS!

BY THE GODS, YOU'RE THE BEST OF THAT SURLY CLAN! I'M PROUD TO CALL YOU "FRIEND!"
YOU DO ME HONOR, MAKARRI!
DESPITE THEIR STRANGE WAYS, THE POLAR ETERNALS HAVE ALWAYS SHOWN GREAT VALOR!


MY FATHER VALKIN WOULD HAVE NOTHING LESS OF US!
MIGHTY VALKIN AND HIS SONS ARE FOREVER WELCOME AT MY SIDE!
YOU FORGET DRUIG, SIRE! I WOULDN'T INVITE HIM TO ANYTHING BUT A HANGING!

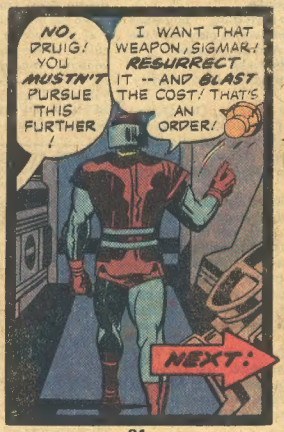
AT THAT MOMENT, IN THE POLAR MOUNTAINS OF THE FAR NORTH...
SPEAK, SIGMAR! OR SHALL I TEAR THE SECRET FROM YOU BY CRUDER METHODS?
THERE IS NO SECRET, NOBLE DRUIG! YOU'VE HEARD OLD WIVES TALES!

DON'T FENCE WITH ME, RAGGED WIZARD! WHEN DRUIG SEEKS FACTS--HE GETS THEM!
H-HOW DID YOU FIND OUT ABOUT THIS THING? THE SECRET HAS BEEN KEPT FOR AGES!

THAT'S WHY I MUST KNOW IT NOW!
TELL ME! TELL ME!
AAAAA--!!
YES, DRUIG... I-I--WILL!

I-IT IS A WEAPON --TOO COMPLEX A-AND TOO DANGEROUS TO CONTROL.
I-IT WAS DECIDED TO ABANDON ITS CONCEPT!
MY FATHER'S DECISION, NO DOUBT! GREAT VALKIN IS CAUTIOUS TO A FAULT!

IT WOULD BE WELL TO ADOPT HIS CAUTION, DRUIG! BEWARE OF THINGS WHICH DEFY UNDERSTANDING!
SUCH THINGS ARE WORTH EVERY RISK!


NO, DRUIG! YOU MUSTN'T PURSUE THIS FURTHER!
I WANT THAT WEAPON, SIGMAR! RESURRECT IT -- AND BLAST THE COST! THAT'S AN ORDER!
NEXT:

TO KILL A SPACE GOD

ETERNAL UTTERINGS

c/o MARVEL COMICS GROUP, 575 MADISON AVE. N.Y.C. 10022

Dear Marvel,

The amazing thing about Jack Kirby is how he never loses his sense of story. Take THE ETERNALS #13, for example. Jack's title is "Astronauts." A very unpromising title, I thought—but no, Jack transforms even this everyday word into something extraordinary. He has three sets of astronauts. Deftly introducing his characters two or three at a time, he executes his storyline at an electric pace that never lets up. A few panels, a few dialogue balloons, and each character becomes real, even to the unfamiliar reader. Three story threads combine, beautifully, to tell the tale.

It's a shame that Jack had to leave the Marvel fold to prove he could handle complete freedom of composition. But the lesson is learned and Jack, who has learned a few things himself, is better than ever.

Vive Marvel! *Vive* Jack Kirby!

Bob Medcalf
BOX 171
BALTIMORE, MD 21203

***Vive* Marveldom Assembled, as well, Bob! We're feeling expansive this evening, especially after poring through such a passionately favorable batch of fan mail. For once, we don't have much to say. It seems you loyal composers of our liltin' letters have said it all about ETERNALS #13—and we couldn't be more pleased!**

Dear Jack,

ETERNALS #13 was yet another mind-boggling masterpiece, following in the tradition of greatness which has existed since issue #1. This book is by far the best Kirby production at Marvel, and one of my favorite comics. The kind of cosmic adventure which you portray in THE ETERNALS suits your talents much better than the single-hero action comics, such as CAPTAIN AMERICA and BLACK PANTHER. Each issue gives us new characters, kingdoms, and aspects of the Celestials' return to excite and amaze us. The amazement inspired is hardly mysterious, for are we not experiencing the creation of a universe?

It is almost beyond comprehension, when one realizes that this new reality exists in the same plane as all the other heroes and villains depicted in the numerous titles of the Marvel line-up. The growing Marvel Universe now includes a veritable multitude of world-shaking battles, tragedies and revelations, any one of which is capable of changing the world. If an event of such proportions as that chronicled in THE ETERNALS were to take place in our own world, it would be the most important happening in our entire history; because of this, it stretches our imagination to its limits to be able to truly understand and encompass the many complexities which are integral parts of the Marvel experience. This ability to open our minds and make us *think* is the true measure of a story's value. It is the reason for Marvel's success, and since THE ETERNALS have provided many important parts and contributed complexities of their own, you too, Mr. Kirby, have achieved success.

I thank you for your great contribution to the world of comics, but there is another who deserves credit, and who has not yet received it. His name is Arthur C. Clarke. His famous book, CHILDHOOD'S END, has obviously been a great inspiration to you in the creation and writing of THE ETERNALS. The concepts of the return of powerful beings from space, their responsibility for many ancient legends, Kro's earlier resemblance to Satan, man's superstitious fear of him, the fifty-year waiting period, especially the Uni-Mind, and even the astronaut's words "While we were bright-eyed and big-chested about space travel, the competition was on its way to us!" can be traced to Clarke's classic science-fiction novel. You have also drawn on mythology for many of your characters, and I do not doubt that other concepts in THE ETERNALS were borrowed from other works of science-fiction. There is nothing wrong with this, it's just that I believe in giving credit where credit is due.

Getting back to issue #13, you have expanded the cast of characters in almost every issue, and I wonder how many more there will be, before you are done. This "Forgotten One" is especially interesting, since he causes me to wonder what figure from history he is representing. He reminds me immediately of Hercules, since he supposedly "toppled the palaces and slew the beasts (that humans) could not conquer," but Hercules is already represented elsewhere in the Marvel Universe. Is he really dead, or will we be seeing more of him in the future? I am glad to hear that the Hulk will be in the next issue, not because I like the Hulk, but because I think this mag needs some contact with the rest of Marvel. Your other productions could use some of this contact as well, Jack.

Scott Feuless
1757 Brunella Ave.
Piscataway, NJ 08854

Dear Jack,

"The Astronauts," in issue #13 of THE ETERNALS, was my favorite story in the series so far. The final frontier of space was a perfect setting for this latest confrontation between Man, Deviants, Eternals, and Space Gods. The use of the space shuttle was an up-to-date technique and kept the scope of the action current with our present space technology. Another touch that I enjoyed, this time, was the nameless Eternal who was earth's unknown savior—and Sprite's resourcefulness in enlisting his aid. As always, the art was stunning. Thanks for a most entertaining story about one of my favorite interests, space exploration.

Bill Dickenson
5930 W. Broadway Apt.8
Crystal, MN 55428

The ranks of ETERNALS enthusiasts are ever on the swell, Bill, as cogent cognoscenti throughout comicdom keen to the colossal and cataclysmic drama unfolding here each and every month.

scanned by *Wizard*